

"The reactionary Christian Social Party, the basic cadres of which were the People's Party, and the Heimwehr (Austrian fascist militia) worth their fascist Fuehrers - first Dollfuss and then Schuschnigg - these prepared Austria's Anschluss to Germany. These organizations fought a bitter battle against democracy and especially against workers' organizations. The suppression of the growing discontentment of the working class was conducted in the most cruel manner and ended, in February 1934, with the bloody smashing of the workers' organizations.

"In 1938, Hitler, with the aid of his agents, planted in the State's apparatus and the government itself, Austria and included the country in the German Empire. SEIZED

"For seven years Austria was under the yoke of the Hitlerites. Her national independence had been destroyed.

"The Soviet Union and its armed forces destroyed Hitler Germany and brought freedom to Austria.

"Unfortunately the Austrian people did not take an active part in the struggle for its freedom.

"Until the end of the war Austria remained on the side of Hitler Germany. This passivity on the part of the Austrian people, which displayed itself in the matter of their own independence (or their own freedom), is explained primarily by the fact that fascism in Austria, as in no other country except Germany, had planted deep roots and had infected with its ideology considerable segments of Austria's population.

"The Soviet army liberated Austria from the German fascist tyranny and created all the conditions for an immediate revival in Austria of the democratic parties, unions and other democratic organizations. It granted to the Austrian people a chance to create a provisional government and, in May 1945, to conduct free elections for the Austrian Parliament. On January 1946 the new Austrian Government, which had been formed after the elections, was recognized by the Allied Powers."

"The great majority of the population, more than 90 percent, profess the Roman Catholic faith. The Catholic Church enjoys great influence among the population, especially among the peasants and women. It has an active influence on the political life of the country, and supports the reactionary policies of the People's Party (also called the Catholic Party). It is an opponent of the slogans and ideas of the Communist Party and an irreconcilable enemy of the Soviet Union.

"Eight years of schooling are compulsory in Austria. However, children of the workers through necessity remain out of school. The higher positions in the state apparatus, in the courts and the police and so forth, can be filled only by those persons who have higher education, that is, persons from among the owning classes."

"People's Party: (about 700,000 members). It has a majority in the Parliament and in the government. This reactionary half-Fascist party which rose after the liberation of Vienna by the Soviet Army has united in its ranks

former members of the Christian Social~~ist~~ Party (which is directly responsible for setting up in Austria the Fascist orders even before Hitler's entrance into the country) and members of other reactionary Parties which are now banned. Now under the old faded banner of Fascism and anti-Communism have assembled all the reactionary forces of Austria, starting with the large capitalists, the Catholic clergy and ending with the Kulaks. Many thousand Hitlerites have found refuge in the party. The policy of the People's Party expresses the interests of the ruling classes in Austria, determined and directed by the large bourgeoisie. The People's Party is the vicious enemy of all progress, of all democratic reforms and transformation. Equipped with the slogan that private property is sacred and inviolable and that nationalization is stealing and plunder, it sabotages democratic change in the country, especially the nationalization of heavy industry and land reform, things on which the Austrian workers and the Communist Party insist..... The People's Party has been sabotaging the work of de-nazification, it renders aid and support to the Austrian fascists and at the same time, conducts a struggle again at the Communist Party and all other democratic forces in Austria. It is also hostile to the new democracies and to the Soviet Union. In foreign affairs the People's Party is completely oriented towards the USA and with the aid of American capital hopes to perpetuate in Austria the presently existing reactionary order.

"The second ruling party in Austria which is represented in Parliament and Government and which is in a block with the People's Party, is the Socialist Party (more than 600,000 members).

"As in the past, it is the chief bearer of the bourgeois influence on the proletariat whose support it still enjoys. It represents a block of the petty bourgeois and workers, the leading role belonging to the reactionary petty bourgeois. In internal affairs the reactionary leadership of the Socialist Party (headed by the chairman of the party, SCHAERF) together with the members of the People's Party, sabotaged the introduction of basic democratic changes, the battle with the remnants of Fascism, and finally came out against the unity of the working class. They have tried to squeeze Communists out of the worker's movement. In foreign policy the reactionary leadership of the Socialist Party completely has placed itself in the service of the Anglo American imperialists, and has assumed a hostile position toward the Soviet Union and to the countries of the new democracy.

"The third political party in Austria, the youngest and the one with the fewest members, is the Communist Party (approximately 155,000 members). This party consistently defends the interests of the working class and the working masses. It bravely and firmly fights against the forces of reaction and fascism, against Anglo-American imperialism; it fights for democracy, freedom and independence of its country.

"The forces of reaction, who are now in complete rule of the Austrian Government, succeeded by their anti-popular and criminal policy in excluding Communists from the government in November 1947. Thus, in fact, the Communist Party has been completely excluded from taking a part in the affairs of the state. With all the force of its political and economic strength and depending on the support of the Anglo-American reaction the government is bearing down on the activity of the Communist Party. The Austrian Communists are subjected to all possible persecutions (especially in the Western Zones of Austria).

"However, in spite of these persecutions the authority of the Communist Party, which is actively fighting for a new democratic way of progress in Austria, is growing. In its internal policy the Communist Party stands for the introduction of basic democratic changes for the removal of fascism, of the Nazi-ideology, from all spheres of social life among the Austrian people. In its foreign policy it demands the establishment of friendly relations between Austria, the Soviet Union and the neighboring countries, that is, the democracies."

"The problem which disturbs the industrial population of Austria the most and which brings forth the most discontentment with the FIGL-SCHAERF government is that of food supply. At a time when the rationing system is being done away with in the Soviet Union and when in the neighboring people's democracies the existing food supply norms are on a high level, no one in the landowning and bourgeois Austria even thinks about doing away with the ration system for the next several years. The urban population receives extremely low food supply allotments, a fact which has led repeatedly to hunger demonstrations by the workers."

"It is also known that Austria occupies an exceptionally important position in the strategic situation of Europe. As a result of the military and political changes in Austria, the American imperialists, among other things, are pursuing also military strategic aims. For the attainment of its goal Anglo-American reaction is developing mad activity in Austria, is forming military aviation bases in its zones, is preserving and enlarging former German military war factories, and is concentrating a large number of Hitlerites and foreign fascists for the purpose of forming from them military hirelings, saboteurs, spies and murderers."

"Soviet policy in Austria is directed at carrying out of the following goals:

- "1. First, in aiding the Austrian people in rebuilding the economically, in ridding it of management by the Hitlerites, and in doing away with the German influence in the life of the country.
 - "2. Secondly, to give aid to the Austrian people in the struggle with the numerous remains of Fascism and Nazism and their standard-bearers in all areas of political, cultural and economic life of the country; to punish Austrian war criminals responsible for the suffering of their own as well as other people. It is in the fulfillment of the above conditions, which were stipulated by the Allies, that the entire policy of the Soviet government towards Austria has been built (and continues to be built)."
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"The Soviet Government's policy towards Austria is based not only on the State interests of the Soviet Union, but also on the interests of the Austrian people. For in the present situation, lasting peace, which is unthinkable without the routing out of the remnants of Fascism, no only the Soviet Union but also the working masses of the Austrian people are interested."

"We have to live and carry out our work in an extremely complicated situation, in a situation of direct capitalist encirclement, fraught with viciousness and hatred towards us, in a situation of direct contact with troops of the three imperialist-capitalist powers who are infiltrating our camp with their spies, saboteurs, provocateurs and murders."

"We have to be especially vigilant, to be always on guard, to be in a state of constant military preparedness and also to hold high the honor and worthiness of the Soviet people. Each of us must constantly remember that we are citizens of a great socialist nation, warriors of a great socialist liberation army and that it is through our acts and through our moral make-up that the workers of a country in which we are stationed form definite opinions about our country, about our social structure, our culture and about our Soviet people."

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